

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/SCT:REALDERMAN:MD

APPROVED BY IO/SCT - MR. TREVITHICK

NOAA - MR. JOHNSON

NOAA - MR. ZAVOS

EUR/EE - MR. ANDREWS

EUR/EE - MR. DUNLOP

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P 091557Z P 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA ROUTINE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, TGEN, WMO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN PROJECT IN WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REF: BUCHAREST 3988

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN REPLY TO THE
QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL.

2. (A) THE WMO PROJECT MENTIONED IS THE WORLD WEATHER
WATCH (WWW), A SYSTEM FOR OBSERVING, COLLECTING, PROCESSING
AND DISTRIBUTING WEATHER INFORMATION. WHEN FULLY DEVELOPED,
THE WWW WILL CONSIST OF AN INTEGRATED GLOBAL SYSTEM WHICH
WILL PROVIDE WORLDWIDE, REAL-TIME WEATHER DATA ENABLING
THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD TO PROVIDE THE WEATHER SERVICE
ITS PEOPLES NEED. A MAJOR ELEMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION
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OF THE WWW IS THE VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VAP). THIS PROGRAM, AND OTHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, ASSIST THE LDC'S, WHICH MAKE UP A LARGE PORTION OF THE WORLD'S LAND AREA, IN MEETING THE WWW PLAN.

DEVELOPED MEMBER STATES OF THE WMO PROVIDE THROUGH THE VAP EQUIPMENT, SERVICES AND TRAINING TO THE LDC'S FOR PARTICULAR PROJECTS AFTER SUCH PROJECTS ARE SUBMITTED FOR CERTIFICATION TO THE WMO. IN ADDITION, MEMBER STATES INCLUDING

THE U.S. CONTRIBUTE TO A VAP CASH FUND UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE WMO.

(B) THE WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS COMPRISED NOT OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES BUT 24 DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES SERVING IN AN INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY. A SUBSIDIARY BODY OF THE WMO EC IS THE VAP PANEL. LAST MAY, BOTH THE PANEL AND THE COMMITTEE APPROVED AUTHORIZING THE USE OF DOLS 70,000 OF THE VAP CASH FUND TO HELP SUPPORT AUTOMATION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES AT BUCHAREST. THIS AUTHORIZATION WAS CONTINGENT ON THE SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PROJECT WITH OTHER SUPPORT FROM BOTH NATIONAL RESOURCES AND AN UNSPECIFIED DONOR COUNTRY THROUGH THE VAP. THE U.S. MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE AND PANEL DID NOT OBJECT TO SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT NOR WAS REFERENCE MADE TO ROMANIA AS A "DEVELOPED COUNTRY".

(C) IN A TELEGRAM DATED JUNE 21, 1974, THE WMO SECRETARY-GENERAL REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. CONSIDER PROVIDING ASSISTANCE OF ABOUT DOLS 50,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE ROMANIAN PROJECT, SPECIFICALLY IN ASSISTING PURCHASING OF A U.S. CDC COMPUTER. THE PROJECT WOULD AUTOMATE THE RELAYING OF DATA BETWEEN BUCHAREST AND SOFIA AND BUDAPEST IN THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION CIRCUIT OF THE WWW. THE SYG HAD ALSO ASKED U.S. CONSIDERATION OF THIS SAME PROJECT A YEAR OR TWO AGO. THE U.S. REPLY, DATED AUGUST 15, CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING: "WITH RESPECT TO SUPPORT FOR ROMANIAN TE/4/1, WE HAVE REVIEWED THE PROJECT NEEDS AND ITS PRIORITY IN THE GTS (GLOBAL TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM OF THE WWW) SCHEME AND DO NOT FEEL THAT WE CAN PROVIDE ANY U.S VAP SUPPORT TO IT AT THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIME. SINCE ROMANIA IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE RA VI (EUROPEAN REGION) TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, THIS TYPE (NATIONAL) OF PROJECT COULD BE SUPPORTED BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE EUROPEAN REGION. WE WOULD, NEVERTHELESS, BE WILLING TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ADVICE, WITHIN AVAILABLE RESOURCES, ON MINI-COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND AUTOMATION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION PART OF A (NATIONAL) OPERATION."

3. COMMENT: ROMANIANS ARE APPARENTLY UNDER A MISAPPREHENSION ABOUT ISSUE OF SO-CALLED "DEVELOPING COUNTRY," WHICH TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS NEVER ARISEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WMO PROJECT, NOR WOULD WE OF COURSE CHALLENGE ROMANIA'S CLAIM TO LDC STATUS IN THIS MATTER. RE PROJECT ITSELF, USG IS ALREADY A CONTRIBUTOR TO THE VAP CASH FUND DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 ABOVE. HOWEVER, DIRECT U.S. VAP PROJECT ASSISTANCE, ASIDE FROM OUR DONATION TO THE CASH FUND, IS MAINLY DIRECTED TOWARD COMPLETING

GAPS IN THE WWW NETWORK WHICH EXIST IN REGIONS OTHER THAN EUROPE. OUR DECISION NOT TO OFFER FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO THE ROMANIAN PROJECT WAS THUS BASED ON OUR JUDGMENT THAT PROJECTS IN OTHER AREAS DESERVE PRIORITY. WE CAN FIND NO RECORD OF ANY U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE ROMANIANS, IN PRELIMINARY MEETING, IMPLICIT OR EXPLICIT.

4. NEVERTHELESS, AFTER FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE ROMANIAN PROJECT, USG EXPERTS HERE BELIEVE THAT IN LIGHT OF RECENT ADVANCES IN COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY (OF WHICH THE ROMANIANS MAY NOT BE AWARE) THE PROJECT COULD POSSIBLY BE COMPLETED WITH THE DOLS 100,000 ALREADY AVAILABLE FROM WMO/VAP (70,000) AND FROM ROMANIA ITSELF (30,000). THEREFORE, IN FOLLOW-UP TO LAST SENTENCE MENTIONED IN PARA 2(C) ABOVE, THE U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE AN EXPERT TO VISIT BUCHAREST AND PURSUE WITH METEOROLOGY OFFICIALS THERE THE POSSIBILITY OF ACCOMPLISHING THIS PROJECT WITHIN THIS AMOUNT. IF ROMANIA AGREES WITH THIS PROPOSAL, EXPERT WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN AREA IN CONNECTION WITH TRAVEL TO ANOTHER PROJECT WHICH IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED SOMETIME BEFORE THE END OF YEAR. ALSO, ROMANIAN INTEREST IN SUCH A VISIT SHOULD BE CONVEYED THROUGH NORMAL WMO VAP CHANNELS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. FOR GENEVA (CARTWRIGHT): REQUEST DISCREET INFORMAL INQUIRY BE MADE WITH SECRETARIAT FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF ANY U.S. INDICATION OF SUPPORT FOR ROMANIAN PROJECT.

6. POSTSCRIPT: AMBASSADOR BOGDAN RAISED THE WMO PROJECT IN LOW KEY DURING A SEPTEMBER 6 CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM. LATTER BRIEFLY OUTLINED US POSITION. BOGDAN SEEMED PLEASED AT THE PROSPECT OF VISIT OF EXPERT, AS WELL AS AT ASSURANCES US IS NOT OPPOSING PROJECT NOR CHALLENGING GOR CLAIM TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY STATUS. KISSINGER

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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